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Law enforcement agencies collaborate to better protect Delaware residents

Dover, DE – Today, the Delaware Department of Justice and Delaware State Police unveiled Delaware's enhanced Sex Offender website and announced a newly-expanded registration effort during a press conference at the Delaware State Police Academy in Dover. The website changes were developed through a collaborative effort among the Attorney General's office, Delaware State Police, Delaware Child Predator Task Force, Department of Technology and Information, and Delaware Justice Information System.

"Sexual crimes against children and adults devastate families and communities," stated Richard S. Gebelein, Chief Deputy Attorney General. "Our enhanced registry and the closing of a loophole in the registration requirements give Delawareans more information to protect themselves and their loved ones."

The agencies worked together to provide the public with new searchable criteria on the State's Sex Offender Registry website at <http://desexoffender.dsp.delaware.gov>. These enhancements include:

- Offender vehicle registration search;
- Offender E-mail search;
- A "Real Time" wanted sex offender page; and
- Neighborhood Mapping capability – that provides visual aids to determine proximity to offenders.

The agencies also announced a new initiative to require sex offenders who were convicted before the 1994 enactment of Delaware's sex offender registry law to be placed on the State Sex Offender Registry. Over 900 sex offenders have been identified as potential Delaware residents that will now be required to register as sex offenders. These individuals will be contacted by Delaware State Police to initiate their registration.

"This is a great example of how agencies can work together to enhance public safety and help parents protect their children," said Governor Jack Markell, who signed SB 185 into law last month.

As a result of these enhancements and the enactment of Senate Bill 185 the agencies announced that Delaware is now closer to 100% compliance with the federal "Adam Walsh" Act. The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, enacted in 2006, is designed to align sex offender registry standards nationwide.

Please call Sergeant Walter Newton, Delaware State Police at 302-841-2553 if you have questions regarding the new searchable features on the Delaware Sex Offender website.

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